

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for processing a cell, comprising:
irradiating a living cell or a living tissue with a laser beam with 1-100 mJ/cm² of energy density output through a hollow optical fiber filled with an inert gas; and
cutting off, removing or boring a cell wall or a cell membrane or an entirety of the cell wall thus irradiated;
wherein the cell is irradiated with the laser through reflection and condensing which are effected through a chip of quartz glass in which hydroxide groups have been introduced.
2. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein irradiating the living cell or the living tissue ~~is irradiated~~ occurs with ~~the laser~~ a laser beam at a wavelength of 500 nm or less.
- 3-4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface of the quartz glass chip is coated with a metal.
6. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 5, wherein the metal is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, platinum, gold, palladium, and oxides thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein irradiating is conducted with a laser selected from the group consisting of an YAG laser, an excimer laser, an Ar ion laser, a nitrogen laser and a nitrogen-excited laser.
8. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising introducing foreign matter into the living cell and/or the living tissue through a laser-

irradiated portion thereof after irradiating the living cell or the living tissue with the laser beam.

9. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 8, wherein introducing foreign matter further includes introducing foreign matter selected from the group consisting of a genetic substance, a protein, an organelle, a physiologically active substance and an indicating agent.

10. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 9, wherein introducing foreign matter includes introducing a genetic substance selected from the group consisting of a DNA, an RNA, an oligonucleotide, a plasmid, a chromosome, an artificial chromosome, an organelle DNA, and a nucleic acid analogue.

11–12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the inert gas is selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen gas, an argon gas, and a helium gas.

14. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein irradiating further includes passing the laser beam through a hollow optical fiber coated with a metal.

15. (Canceled)